So thin* that life looks through,, and will break out.

P. HUMPH. The people fear me[6]; for they do observe
Unfather'd heirs | and loathly birds of nature:
The seasons change their manners[8], as the year[9]

Daniel's improvement then looks like the artifice of a man that would outdo his master. Though he fails in the attempt· for his ingenuity betrays him into a false thought. The mind looking through does not find *its own frailty* but the frailty of the *building* it inhabits." *Hurd's Dissertation on the Marks of Imitation.*

This ingenious criticism the general principles of which cannot be controverted shows however how dangerous it is to suffer the mind to be led too far by an hypothesis ·— for after all there is very good reason to believe that Shakspeare and not Daniel was the imitator. The Dissention between the Houses of Yorke and Lancaster in verse penned by Samuel Daniel was entered on the Stationers' books by Simon Waterson in October 1594* and four books of his work were printed in 1595. The lines quoted by Mr Steevens are from the edition of The Civil Wars in 1609. Daniel made many changes in his poems in every new edition. In the original edition in 1595 the verses run thus; book iii. st. 116·

" Wearing the wall so thin, that now the mind
" Might well look thorough, and his frailty find."

His is used for *its* and refers not to *mind* (as is supposed above) but to *wall*.—There is no reason to believe that this play was written before 1594, and it is highly probable that Shakspeare had read Daniel's poem before he sat down to compose these historical dramas. MALONE.

[6] The people FEAR me;] i.e. make me afraid. WARBURTON.

So, in The Merchant of Venice:

"-----this aspect of mine
" Hath fear'd the valiant/*
STEEVENS.

7Unfather'd heirs,] That is, equivocal births: animals that had no animal progenitors; productions not brought forth according to the stated laws of generation. JOHNSON.

8 The seasons change their manners,] This is finely expressed; alluding to the terms of *rough* and *harsh* when applied to weather. WARBURTON.

9 —i 39 the year—l i. e. as *it the* year, &c So, in Cyra.be-
Ene:

" He spake of her, *as* Dian had hot dreams.

" And she alone were cold."

In the subsequent lm$ ow author seems to have been thinking? of *leap-y&r.*